Bombay Gazette

EXTRAORDINARY.

FRIDAY, 10TH JANUARY 1817.

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Friday, 10th January, 1817.

As our numerous readers must be extremely anxious to be made acquainted with all we know relative to the late glorious expedition against Algiers we lose no time in publishing another extra.

According to advices received, through Paris and Constantinople, from Algiers. under date the 31st of August, the English fleet, consisting of 32, six sail of which were Dutch frigates, hove in sight off that place, about one o'clock P. M. on the 27th of August. After having tried the channels of negotiation in vain, His Lordship laid his ships, clapping springs upon their cables, within half cannon shot, under the fire of the batteries, as well of the fort, as road: he himself being placed at the entrance of the Port, and so near the quays, as we understand the account, that while his yards touched the houses, on one side, his guns, on the other, swept the whole interior of the port, and thundered away against the exposed Algerines who manned the batteries. The fire of the English was kept up for above six hours, serving only to augment the rage and fury of the enemy, when two of our officers requested permission to push off in a boat and fasten *une chemise soufrée** to the fore most Algerine frigate which defended the entrance of the port, and set her on fire. This suggestion was followed up with the most perfect success, a fresh breeze from the Westward carrying the conflagation so completely amid the Algerine squadron, that in a short time five frigates, four corvettes, and thirty gun boats were a prey to the flames. The town comparatively speaking was little injured, tho' the shells nevertheless did considerable damage to it.

The English fleet suffered materially. Our loss is estimated at about a thousand men; which is also the probable loss on the side of the Algerines. One of the enemies Frigates, while on fire, was driven, by the wind, on board the ship in which Lord Exmouth was, who, in consequence, found it necessary to cut his cables and run, for a short time, from the immediate scene of action.

ANOTHER ACCOUNT.

Captain Brisbane, flag Captain to Lord Exmouth passed thro' Paris, on the 13th of September, bearing Lord Exmouth's dispatches, & according to his description the conflict, at Algiers, must have been extremely bloody. The Admirals ship was so placed that she was completely in the teeth of the enemies guns. About 850 English were killed, and among that number 180 were on board the ship which carried the flag of the noble Admiral.

His Lordship was wounded on the cheek, and received also a very severe contusion on one of his legs. Admiral Milne, was likewise wounded. The Captain of the *Superbe* dangerously.

It is not true that the English stormed and carried the batteries. The burning of the Algerine Squadron decided the combat and produced the capitulation, Algiers, itself was only partially bombarded, the vessel on board of which the Congreve rockets were, not having arrived.

The capitulation did not stipulate for the destruction of the fortifications. The Algerines fought with extreme obstinacy and fury. The Dey, in an open boat, hurried, during the contest, from one battery to another, cheering and animating, by his presence, those who served the guns. His soldiers received him, every where, with acclamations, and kissed the hem of his garments with enthusiasm chastened by respect.

It was thought that the English fleet, which had suffered considerably would proceed to Gibraltar for the purpose of repairing its damages. Other reports, however, state that after having assured himself of the due performance of the convention, entered into by the Dey, His Lordship would direct his motions towards Tunis, from which place a flag of truce had been already despatched to him.

The Dey caused the head of his Minister for marine affairs to be struck off because his measures were not taken with sufficient activity.

Our brave and experienced commander appears not to have lost a moment, for even while attempting to negotiate he was also preparing to fight. The Algerines also were equally on the *alert*.

The latter part of this desperate conflict must have been a most superb, tho' doubtless horrible, spectacle, it being nearly midnight when it ended.

The Hannah sailed yesterday for Liverpool.

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* CHEMISE *de feu*, Fr. A French sea term, to signify several pieces of old sails of various sizes, which after they have been pitched, and thoroughly soaked in other combustible matter, such as oil of petrol, camphor, &c. may be nailed to an enemy's ship on boarding her, and when set fire to, will consume the same.

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